

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for the state of Alabama, a man whose significant impact and dedication to the needs and interests of his constituents will be felt for many years to come. Senator Heflin will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Elizabeth Ann Heflin, his son, Tom Heflin, and his two grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

FALL RIVER HERALD NEWS
SALUTES CDBG

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 23 years ago, when Congressional Districts in Massachusetts were changed, one of the first issues I worked on involving the newer parts of my district concerned the Community Development Block Grant Program for the City of Fall River. Working with then Mayor Carlton Viveiros, I was successful in preserving parts of the CDBG Program in Fall River that were being threatened by legislative changes. And in the years since then, Fall River has continued to be a national exemplar of how this program works for the benefit of our constituents.

On Friday, April 1, the newspaper of Fall River, the Herald News, ran an excellent editorial, which testifies both to the value of the CDBG Program nationally, and to the good work that people have done administering it in Fall River. As the editorial eloquently pointed out, "Allowing a community's water mains to decay does nothing to foster self-reliance. An 80-year-old widow on a small pension, living alone, will probably not be lured from the paths of righteousness if she receives some help paying her heating bills." As the Herald News notes, CDBG funds in Fall River "are a good example of tax money being put to a variety of concrete uses that directly benefit people." Given that we are now in a national debate on this program in response to the President's proposal substantially to reduce it and reorganize it, I ask that the very thoughtful editorial by the Fall River Herald News be printed here.

The most common (and often misguided) gripe about government is that you pay your taxes and you never see your money at work.

In fact, it is popular to believe that government spends its entire budget on "pork barrel" projects of the "how do butterflies fly" variety.

This kind of thinking is so enshrined in the American consciousness that no one really believes government ever does anything useful with taxpayer dollars.

That's not true.

Witness the Community Development Block Grant Program. That program brings about \$5 million to Fall River every year. That \$5 million is not spent on pork.

Money from CDBG funding puts police officers on foot beats, helps poor elderly people pay their utilities and has helped reline miles of city water pipes.

Does that sound like pork to you?

At a recent press conference, Fall River Mayor Edward M. Lambert Jr. spoke strongly about the need to preserve the CDBG program.

Lambert said the program is threatened by an initiative aimed at rolling a number of similar programs together, cutting funding and handing control over to the Department of Commerce. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has always administered CDBG programs.

Frankly, any threat to CDBG money is a threat to Fall River.

Of course, numerous people will say that the cutting of another "entitlement" program is a good thing, that "self-reliance" needs to be encouraged.

It's difficult to see what these people mean. Allowing a community's water mains to decay does nothing to foster self-reliance. An 80-year-old widow on a small pension, living alone, will probably not be lured from the paths of righteousness if she receives some help paying her heating bills.

In Fall River, Community Development Block Grants are a good example of tax money being put to a variety of concrete uses that directly benefit people.

That kind of government program deserves to continue on a steady course.

HUMANITARIAN FOOD AND
MEDICINE EXPORT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will remove current, and prohibit future, embargoes on the export of food, medicine, or medical devices. Embargoes on these items, as we have seen time and time again, do not have the desired policy effect on the targeted country. In fact, they only punish the innocent and most vulnerable people in these countries. Does anyone believe that denying the people of a foreign country food or medicine because of our quarrel with their leader will make them more sympathetic toward the United States? We are fond of talking about "humanitarian" treatment in foreign countries. But it is our policy of embargoing the export of food and medicine to certain countries that is most un-humanitarian. We need to practice what we preach.

Also, it is very important to remember the harm we do to our own citizens when we deny them the right to sell their products to whoever they like. It is not very humanitarian to deny our own citizens the right to their livelihood because our political leadership does not get along with the political leadership of another country.

Mr. Speaker, we do ourselves no favors in denying our citizens the right to export the essentials for life to citizens abroad. And we do no real harm to leaders abroad, who actually benefit by our sanction policies, as they provide a convenient scapegoat for their own economic failures. The fact is that trade promotes peace. Forcibly cutting off trade relations with another country promotes militarism and conflict.

I hope my colleagues will join me by co-sponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR PRESIDENT,
VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Ukrainian people and their President, Viktor Yushchenko. President Yushchenko's election last fall marked a powerful triumph of popular will over the forces of fraud and repression. Mr. Yushchenko's vision of the Ukraine, shared in his address to Congress this week, is an inspiration to freedom loving men and women in Eastern Europe and across the globe.

Through the power of peaceful protest, the government of the Ukraine embraced the forces of freedom last fall, conducting free elections for the first time in over eight decades. The world watched as nearly 80 percent of eligible Ukrainian voters turned out to cast ballots on December 26, 2004. This remarkable participation is a measure of the collective courage of the Ukraine people, many of whom voted despite threats to their personal safety and employment.

President Yushchenko himself carries visual scars, a tangible badge of his own strength and resolute determination in the struggle for freedom. He has demonstrated enormous grace and selflessness in his perseverance. He is well known as a man of high integrity who surely, with the cooperation of global allies, will work hard to reject the corrupt political forces that sought to block him from public office.

We in this Chamber have pledged our support for the Ukraine through resolutions, words, and deeds. It is an honor to welcome President Yushchenko to the United States. I look forward to working with him and the good people of the Ukraine during this exciting moment in their nation's history.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greek-Americans on the occasion of Greek Independence Day, and wish all people of Greek descent across the globe, peace, happiness and prosperity. In the same spirit of friendship and brotherhood, I ask all of my Greek friends to use this joyous occasion to renew their commitment to peace by doing all that they can to facilitate and promote the end of the long-standing stalemate on the beautiful Mediterranean island, Cyprus.

Recent remarks made by Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis with regards to Greece's support for the resumption of negotiations on the Cyprus question along the lines of the United Nations' Plan for a settlement (the "Annan Plan") are deeply encouraging, and should be supported by the international community and the United States. Greece's role in facilitating negotiations under U.N. auspices and convincing the Greek Cypriot side,